

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03672 021959Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSM-03 IO-13 NSCE-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 /090 W  
-----006791 022008Z /75

O 021930Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8520  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 3672

JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV PASS ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PERP, MOPS, LE, SY  
SUBJECT: BEIRUT SITREP - 2130 HRS JULY 2

REF: BEIRUT 3670 (DTG 021013Z JUL 78)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03672 021959Z

1. SUMMARY. FIGHTING RESUMED IN BEIRUT LATE AFTERNOON  
JULY 2 BETWEEN SYRIAN ADF AND BOTH PHALANGE AND NATIONAL  
LIBERAL PARTY MILITIAS. FIGHTING BEGAN IN DOWNTOWN PORT  
AREA, NEAR PHALANGE PARTY HEADQUARTERS, SOON SPREAD TO  
AIN AR REMANNEH AND BECAME GENERALIZED ABOUT 1800. NLP  
HEADQUARTERS WAS HIT AND IS PRESENTLY BURNING. DANY  
CHAMOUN IS THREATENING TO CALL UPON THE ISRAELIS FOR

DIRECT ASSISTANCE. ACCORDING TO PHALANGE POLITICAL BUREAU MEMBER KARIM PAKRADOUNI, CEASEFIRE WAS ARRANGED AT 2030 LOCAL. AS OF 2130, HOWEVER, INTENSIVE FIRING CONTINUES AND SOME DIRECT GROUND FIGHTING HAS DEVELOPED IN CENTRAL ASHRAFIEH. END SUMMARY.

2. FIGHTING RESUMES. APPROXIMATELY AT MIDDAY JULY 2, AFTER A QUIET MORNING, TWO INCIDENTS REPORTEDLY OCCURED, WHICH SPARKED RENEWED FIGHTING. 1) FOUR SYRIAN SOLDIERS WERE KIDNAPPED BY PHALANGIST ELEMENTS IN PORT AREA NEAR LEBANESE FRONT "UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND" HEADQUARTERS. SYRIANS DEMANDED THEIR IMMEDIATE RETURN, BUT THEY WERE NOT RELEASED. 2) THERE WAS AN INCIDENT IN THE SAME GENERAL AREA BETWEEN PHALANGIST MILITIAS AND SYRIANS AT A ROADBLOCK. SYRIANS RETALIATED BY FIRING AT PHALANGIST POSITIONS IN BOURG - PORT AREA. PHALANGISTS BECAME CONVINCED THAT THEIR NATIONAL (POLITICAL) HEADQUARTERS WAS UNDER ATTACK, WHICH SYRIANS DENIED.

3. FIGHTING SPREADS. HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE BEGAN HITTING AIN AR REMANNEH AREA ABOUT 1700, OBSERVED FROM AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE AT YARZE. AS OF 1930 A SHELL OR ROCKET WAS HITTING AREA EVERY TWO SECONDS. BY 200, FIGHTING BY INDIRECT FIRE APPEARED TO BE GENERALIZED THROUGHOUT EAST BEIRUT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03672 021959Z

4. NLP HEADQUARTERS ATTACKED. NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY (POLITICAL) HEADQUARTERS IN EASTERN ASHRAFIEH CAME UNDER HEAVY BOMBARDMENT FROM HIGH EXPLOSIVES AND ROCKETS AND CAUGHT FIRE AT ABOUT 2000 LOCAL. ACCORDING TO DANY CHAMOUN, HIS FATHER CAMILLE CHAMOUN IS IN THE BASEMENT OF AN ADJOINING BUILDING ALONG WITH SOME 40 PARTY WORKERS.

5. AMBASSADOR'S ACTIVITIES. DURING THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING, AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS, PRESIDENT SARKIS, DANY CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GAMAYEL. BOUTROS SAID AT ABOUT 2000 LOCAL THAT A CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BUT AS OF 2200 FIRING WAS STILL GOING ON. SARKIS DESCRIBED SITUATION AS "VERY BAD" AND IMPLIED THAT HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH SYRIANS. DANY CHAMOUN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW FIGHTING HAD STARTED TOADY, WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES FOR A CEASEFIRE, AND SAID HE IS CONSIDERING ASKING FOR ISRAELI ASSISTNACE. DANY SAID, "WE HAVE LOST FIFTY PEOPLE ALREADY". PIERRE GEMAYEL (WHO WAS WITH SARKIS AT THE PALACE), AFTER REPEATING HIS USUAL LITANY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY, SAID HE HAD GIVEN CEASE-FIRE ORDER TO ALL PHALANGE UNITS.

6. CEASEFIRE? ACCORDING TO PAKRADOUNI, SPEAKING AT 2030, A CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN ARRANGED, TO TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY. HE THOUGHT HOWEVER IT WOULD TAKE 30 TO 60 MINUTES TO COME INTO BEING. AT 2130 HE REPORTED THAT DIRECT FIGHTING HAD ERUPTED ON THE GROUND IN THE SASSINE AREA (CENTRAL ASHRAFIEH). HE FELT THAT, PARTICULARLY IF A POSITION ON THE GROUND HELD BY EITHER SIDE, FELL TO THE OTHER, FIGHTING WOULD GET OUT OF CONTROL REGARDLESS OF CEASEFIRE.  
PARKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SITREP, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BEIRUT03672  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780273-0679  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197807102/aaaadhww.tel  
**Line Count:** 126  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e8754a6b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BEIRUT 3670  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1852111  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BEIRUT SITREP - 2130 HRS JULY 2  
**TAGS:** ASEC, PINT, PINS, PEPR, LE, SY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e8754a6b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014